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From: Hubbard, Carolyn

Sent: Wed 3/16/2016 1:28:19 PM **Subject:** FW: Flint Readout 03/15/16

2016.03.14-Metro Monitor.xlsx

2016.03.14-03.19 Flint Michigan clips.xlsx

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From: Radebach, Mary (OS/ASPR/COO) [mailto:Mary.Radebach@hhs.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 8:05 PM

Subject: Flint Readout 03/15/16

EPA takes a beating in latest Congressional hearing on Flint water

By Sarah Cwiek, Michigan Radio 03/15/16 7:20 PM

A U.S. House committee held a second hearing on the Flint water crisis Tuesday, taking testimony from some key players in that disaster. Former Flint emergency manager Darnell Earley, former mayor Dayne Walling, former EPA official Susan Hedman, and Virginia Tech engineering professor Marc Edwards – whose independent research team helped reveal the high levels of lead in Flint water late last year – all testified.

Congress Just Ripped Flint Officials. It Wasn't Pretty.

By Julia Lurie, Mother Jones 03/15/16 6:43 PM

On Thursday, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder is scheduled to testify in a much-anticipated hearing before a congressional committee investigating the contamination crisis in Flint. If Tuesday's tense hearing—in which the committee grilled other key local, state, and federal officials—was any indication, he'd better prep a good defense.

EPA sharply criticized for Flint mistakes at hearing

By Todd Spangler, Matthew Dolan and Keith Matheny, Detroit Free Press 03/15/16 6:33 PM

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency came under heavy fire Tuesday for its handling of high levels of lead in Flint's drinking water, with an expert on lead contamination calling it "completely unacceptable and criminal, frankly" even as the EPA's former Midwest administrator claimed her agency was not at fault for what happened. "I don't think anyone at the EPA did anything wrong, but I do believe we could have done more," former EPA Region 5 Administrator Susan Hedman told stunned members of the U.S. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee holding their second hearing into the Flint water crisis Tuesday, with several criticizing her stance that the agency doesn't share in at least some of the responsibility.

Virginia Tech lead expert attacks EPA at Flint water congressional hearing

By Matthew Dolan, Detroit Free Press 03/15/16 6:23 PM

Dr. Marc Edwards said he was dumbfounded by top EPA officials' inability to take responsibility for the lead contamination of Flint's drinking water supply. A leading expert on lead contamination gave a searing critique of alleged failures at the federal Environmental Protection Agency over the Flint water crisis before a congressional oversight committee hearing Tuesday.

House Democrats focus on Snyder's role in Flint crisis

By Jonathan Oosting & Keith Laing, Detroit News 03/15/16 6:04 PM

Democrats on a Congressional committee examining the Flint water crisis focused their questions Tuesday on the actions of Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder in anticipation of his Thursday testimony. Snyder's initial response to water quality issues in Flint and his use of budget-cutting

state appointees in a city with financial debt issues were common themes during the three and-a-half hour hearing, which featured former Flint Emergency Manager Darnell Earley and former Mayor Dayne Walling.

Flint water crisis: EPA comes under harsh scrutiny at Congressional hearing

By Ron Fonger, MLIVE 03/15/16 5:55 PM

Neither the city, state nor federal government came out unscathed in today's Congressional hearing on the Flint water crisis, but the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency may have suffered the hardest blows. With little disagreement about the reasons for the city's water crisis, members of the Full House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform probed witnesses today, March 15, about their role in allowing it to happen -- particularly the EPA, which knew of potential lead in water problems in in February 2015 but was slow to act.

Congress criticizes EPA, Michigan over Flint water crisis

By David Shepardson, Reuters 03/15/16 5:37 PM

A congressional panel on Tuesday criticized the Environmental Protection Agency and Michigan officials for failing to do more to sound the alarm about high levels of lead in the city of Flint's drinking water. "What happened in Flint can never happen again. It is almost unbelievable how many bad decisions were made," said Representative Jason Chaffetz, a Utah Republican who chairs the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Lawmakers Slam Ex-EPA Official for Agency's Role in Flint Water Crisis

By Margaret Chadbourn & Benjamin Siegel, ABC News 03/15/16 5:14 PM [video clip]

Former federal and local officials today blamed one another for the water contamination crisis in Flint, Michigan, during a tense congressional hearing where angry lawmakers described what they called a failure at all levels of government to protect the city's residents. Susan Hedman, a former EPA official who was in charge of the Midwest region, testified that her agency was "limited" under the law in its ability to respond to the crisis, and that the relevant state agency was "slow to deliver" on a plan to address the lead contamination of Flint's water supply.

Five takeaways from congressional hearing on Flint

By Matthew Dolan & Todd Spangler, Detroit Free Press 03/15/16 4:29 PM

- 1. A leading expert on lead contamination in water supplies blasted federal and state environmental regulators for failures.
- 2. Alleged missteps by EPA remains key focus for congressional investigators
- 3. New disclosures from documents made by so-called whistleblower.
- 4. State regulators also were not let off the hook.
- 5. A bigger showdown could come later this week when Michigan's governor testifies under oath.

Flint blame game: former EPA manager says state officials at fault for water crisis

By Oliver Milman, The Guardian 03/15/16 3:26 PM

The Environmental Protection Agency manager who resigned over the Flint poisoned water scandal has blamed state officials for the disaster during an acrimonious congressional inquiry. Susan Hedman, who was the regional EPA head for Flint, told the hearing she resigned due to "false allegations" in the media that she had failed to react to the crisis and sidelined Miguel del Toral, an EPA official who wrote a memo warning of the dangerous situation in Flint.

'Special place in hell' for Flint water crisis actions, Georgia lawmaker says

By Dominic Adams, MLIVE 03/15/16 2:57 PM

A congressman from Georgia had some terse words for the former regional Environmental Protection Agency leader for her actions in response to Flint's water crisis. Susan Hedman, the former region five director, told the U.S. House Committee on Government Oversight and Reform on Tuesday, March 15, that she acted to rectify the city's water crisis once she learned of it. But Rep. Buddy Carter, R-Georgia, was not satisfied with Hedman's response. "Dr. Hedman, I'm sorry, there's a special place in hell for actions like this," Carter said.

EPA Official Defends Handling of Flint Water Crisis

By Kris Maher, Wall Street Journal 03/15/16 2:04 PM

A former Environmental Protection Agency administrator defended her handling of lead

contamination in Flint, Mich., at a congressional hearing Tuesday that laid bare tensions between city, state and federal officials over who is most to blame for the city's water woes.

Ex-EPA official defends agency's work in Flint water crisis at Capitol Hill hearing

By Lenny Bernstein, Washington Post 03/15/16 1:05 PM

Under rough questioning from lawmakers, the former head of the Environmental Protection Agency's Midwest region repeatedly refused Tuesday to acknowledge that she or her agency did anything wrong in the tainted-water disaster in Flint, Mich., though she acknowledged that officials "could have done more" for residents.

Del Toral: EPA didn't make Flint children a priority

By Todd Spangler, Detroit Free Press 03/15/16 12:52 PM

A federal regulator who first raised concerns about Flint's water more than a year ago criticized his agency's handling of the situation in September, saying the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency appeared more concerned with "trying to maintain state/local relationships than we do trying to protect the children" in the city. Region 5 Regulations Manager Miguel Del Toral's email from Sept. 22, 2015, came as there was additional evidence mounting as to high lead levels in Flint's water and studies showing elevated blood-lead levels in Flint's children.

Former mayor says Flint water crisis "catastrophe," relied on assurances

By Roberto Acosta, MLIVE 03/15/16 12:31 PM

Former Flint Mayor Dayne Walling argued there was too much focus on saving money, false assurances of safe drinking water and local concerns were not acted upon with urgency. "The drinking water crisis in Flint is a catastrophe," said Walling during an opening statement Tuesday morning before the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform where he testified alongside several people including former Emergency Manager Darnell Earley.

E-mail shows EPA sought to work with state on Flint water

By Matthew Dolan, Detroit Free Press 03/15/16 12:32 PM

An e-mail unveiled at Tuesday's hearing in Congress on the Flint water crisis shows how eager some Environmental Protection Agency officials were to work with the state rather than force it to take action to require corrosion control treatment. The House Oversight Committee released an e-mail from July 9, 2015, from Jennifer Crooks, the EPA's Michigan program manager in Chicago, in which she urges other agency officials "to move forward and work with the state as our partner." As "the state sees the lead levels climbing, I don't see the benefit in rubbing their nose in the fact that we're right and they're wrong," she wrote.

EPA Official Says 'False Allegations' Forced Her Resignation Over Flint Water Crisis

By Arthur Delaney, Huffington Post 03/15/16 10:50 AM

The Environmental Protection Agency official who resigned in the wake of the Flint water crisis blamed "false allegations" for her downfall. In testimony before a congressional committee on Tuesday, Susan Hedman said stories in The Huffington Post and other outlets misrepresented her actions as the EPA administrator for the midwest region.

Ex-Flint manager deflects blame for lead crisis to state, feds

By Molly Jackson, Christian Science Monitor 03/15/16

The emergency manager in charge of finances for Flint, Mich., when the city switched its water source in 2014, exposing thousands of children to lead, plans to tell Congress he was "totally dependent" on experts who did not tell him how unsafe the water was. Darnell Earley was "grossly misled" by officials from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and US Environmental Protection Agency, he will testify Tuesday before the before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Flint hearing to be a game of blame

By Eric Wolff, Politico 03/15/16 10:00 AM

LET'S PLAY THE FLINT BLAME GAME: Round 2 of the House Oversight Committee's probe into the lead contamination crisis in Flint, Mich., begins today with former local and regional officials, and it is shaping up to be one massive game of finger pointing. Former Emergency Manager Darnell Earley, who oversaw the city's fateful switch to the Flint River and who Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz called on U.S. marshals to hunt down last month, will tell lawmakers he was "grossly misled" by the experts at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and EPA, according to his written testimony.

Flint's former emergency manager proved that critics of Michigan's emergency manager law had a point

By Janell Ross, Washington Post 03/15/16 2:06 PM

If and when a list of recent political wonders of America is drafted, the story of former Flint, Mich., emergency manager Darnell Earley should probably rank among them. Earley is perhaps best-known as the emergency manager in control of Flint and its major governmental and financial decisions during the time when the city moved to a cheaper and more corrosive water source.

Former EPA regional director testified she acted immediately on Flint water crisis

By Gary Ridley, MLIVE 03/15/16 2:24 PM

Former Environmental Protection Agency Regional Director Susan Hedman testified she acted as soon as she learned of the water crisis unfolding in Flint. Hedman, the former Region 5 EPA director, told the U.S. House Committee on Government Oversight and Reform on Tuesday, March 15, that she acted to rectify the city's water crisis once she learned of it.

Republicans hammer EPA official over Flint water crisis

By FOX News 03/15/16

A top Environmental Protection Agency official came under heavy fire Tuesday when Republicans at a congressional hearing accused the agency of failing to protect Flint, Michigan from their water being poisoned by lead. "You screwed up and you ruined people's lives," Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah told Susan Hedman – the top EPA official in the region, who resigned as the crisis worsened. Hedman had been accused of downplaying the warnings of EPA scientists about lead poisoning in the area.

Congressional Hearing On Flint Crisis Results In 'Finger Pointing,' Not Much Else

By Bryce Covert, Think Progress 03/15/16 3:19 PM

On Tuesday, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform held a hearing on the decisions and steps that led to widespread lead contamination in the water in Flint, Michigan. But Flint residents who were in the room expressed extreme disappointment at what they heard.

Congress is still stalled on an aid package to help Flint recover from the water crisis. The legislation is currently being held up in the Senate. Meanwhile, members invited witnesses to testify on the crisis this week.

'Crime of epic proportions': Congress grills ex-EPA, Flint emergency manager over water crisis

By RT 03/15/16

US lawmakers blasted authorities for months of inaction on the lead water crisis in Flint, Michigan and for failing the community, heavily criticizing the former Flint emergency manager and former regional head for the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Ex-E.P.A. Official Defends Her Actions on Flint Water Crisis at Hearing

By Abby Goodnough, New York Times 03/15/16

Members of a congressional oversight committee excoriated a former Environmental Protection Agency official on Tuesday for not responding more forcefully when she learned last year that Flint, Mich., was not adding a chemical to its new water supply that would have prevented the city's pipes from corroding and leaching lead. But the former official, Susan Hedman, testified that limited enforcement options had kept her from acting more aggressively to order corrosion control, saying, "I don't think E.P.A. did anything wrong."

Former Flint EM says he was 'unjustly persecuted' for Flint water crisis

By Ron Fonger, MLIVE 03/15/16 7:36 AM

Former Flint emergency manager Darnell Earley says he was unfairly persecuted for his role in the Flint water crisis, according to written testimony he's given to a Congressional committee that he's expected to testify before today, March 15. Earley served as Flint emergency manager from September 2013 until January 2015, and was running the city in April 2014 when the city began using the Flint River as its water source.

Former Flint Emergency Manager To Testify Before Congress On Water Crisis

By Rick Pluta, WBFO 88.7 03/14/16 6:38 PM [radio clip]

This week, a congressional panel will take top state and federal officials to task for the lead that

has contaminated drinking water in Flint, Mich. Among those scheduled to be in the hot seat? The head of the EPA and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder. Here's a preview from Michigan Public Radio's Rick Pluta.

Ex-Flint officials deflect blame in crisis

By Melissa Burke, Detroit News 03/14/16 9:59 PM

Former Flint Emergency Manager Darnell Earley defended his role in the city's lead-contaminated water crisis, arguing in prepared congressional testimony released Monday that there was "overwhelming consensus" to use the Flint River as a temporary water source. Earley is scheduled to testify Tuesday before the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on a panel that includes former Flint Mayor Dayne Walling and the Environmental Protection Agency's former Midwest Region 5 chief, Susan Hedman.

Special legislative committee starts looking into Flint's water crisis

By Steve Carmody, Michigan Radio 03/15/16 12:00 PM

A special state legislative committee started looking into the Flint water crisis today. Committee chairman Sen. Jim Stamas (R-Midland) set the tone for the four Republicans on the six member joint Senate-House panel. "It is my sincere hope that this committee will stay focused on solutions and not finger pointing and political positioning," Stamas told the committee as it began its session this morning.

Michigan lawmakers hold their own hearing on Flint Water Crisis

By Tim Skubick, FOX 2 03/15/16 5:47 PM [video clip]

The former Emergency Manager of Flint was in Washington DC Tuesday where he was grilled over his organization's response to Flint. But the House Oversight Committee wasn't the only ones asking questions. In Lansing, state lawmakers held their own hearings to figure out what went wrong.

Schuette, Snyder Flint probe contracts fly through state panel

By Paul Egan, Detroit Free Press 03/15/16 6:03 PM

Without debate or a vote cast in opposition, the State Administrative Board on Tuesday approved a \$1.5-million contract to pay for Attorney General Bill Schuette's investigation of the Flint drinking water crisis and accepted as information two legal contracts totaling up to \$1.2 million to provide Gov. Rick Snyder with criminal and civil legal defense advice. Two Flint residents who arrived a few minutes late for the 11 a.m. meeting were shocked to find the board was adjourning just as they arrived, having already completed its agenda.

Board ignores complaints on Snyder's Flint lawyer fees

By Detroit News 03/15/16 2:39 PM

The State Administrative Board approved a \$1.5 million contract on Tuesday to fund the Michigan attorney general's investigation into Flint's lead-tainted water supply and ignored criticism that another \$1.2 million is being spent to help the governor respond to probes and lawsuits.

Flint water crisis will tax schools, raise student needs

By Lori Higgins, Detroit Free Press 03/15/16 7:27 PM

Flint children impacted by lead exposure will need help for years to come — help that may tax a school district struggling financially and academically. Already, nearly 15% of the 5,400 kids in Flint Community Schools have been identified with special education needs. Of that number, 22% have been identified with a cognitive impairment — a percentage that's far higher than the county and state averages. The district also is weighted down by a \$10-million deficit, academic struggles, enrollment declines of 53% since 2010 and years of cuts in staffing and programs.

"Flint's Kids Were Getting Sick; We Had to Find Out Why"

By Maggie Mertens, Glamour 03/15/16 12:00 PM

By 8:30 A.M. Lee-Anne Walters, 38, is in her kitchen, pouring bottled water into the coffeepot. A military wife and mother of four, she opens her magnet-decorated fridge (leprechauns for St. Patrick's Day) and eyes her water supply: a few bottles, a filtered pitcher, two one-gallon jugs.

She sends daughter Kaylie, 19, to the garage to haul in another jug, one of 25 they go through a week. The faucet goes untouched. "Don't worry, we'll get you growing even if we have to streeeetch you," she playfully tells her son Gavin, five. While his twin, Garrett, weighs 53 pounds, Gavin's growth has stalled; he's only 36 pounds. The cause: lead poisoning from the water in Flint, Michigan.

Should lead-exposed families in Flint have to cover related medical bills?

By Lindsey Smith, Michigan Radio 03/15/16 1:00 PM [radio clip]

Flint residents are getting some relief when it comes to their water bills. But what about their medical bills? It's a question some Flint families are asking.

Flint water showing lower lead levels

By Jim Lynch, Detroit News 03/15/16 6:11 PM

The latest round of testing results from Flint's drinking water show improvement for the beleaguered city. State officials, however, still urge continued caution moving ahead. Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality released new results Tuesday from its sentinel sites scattered around the city — areas designated as hotspots for elevated lead levels. Those samples produced fewer results registering above the action level of lead contamination than testing conducted earlier this year.

Flint Water Crisis Impacts Pets

By Cody Boyer, 9 & 10 News 03/15/16 5:08 PM [video clip]

"They should be concerned for their animals, and if they don't think they should drink the water, then they shouldn't be feeding it to their pets. That's just as simple as that," says Paul Wallace, animal control director. It's the side of the story that often goes unheard, despite the loud voices.

Flint council members want more study before lead lines yanked

By Jiquanda Johnson, MLIVE 03/15/16 4:20 PM

Flint City Council members are questioning the mayor's program replacing infrastructure in Flint. After it was found that some homes in Flint with high lead levels didn't have lead pipes, some council members said they are not sure if Flint Mayor Karen Weaver's Fast Start program is the best way to spend millions of dollars to help fix the city's infrastructure.

Governor finds latest Flint lead tests encouraging

By Paul Egan, Detroit Free Press 03/15/16 5:45 PM

Gov. Rick Snyder said Tuesday the latest testing of lead levels in Flint tap water is encouraging. The second round of testing from "sentinel sites" – identified for scientifically controlled repeat testing of high-risk homes – showed improvements from the first round of tests two weeks ago, Snyder said in a news release.

Flint lead levels down, but researcher doesn't say when water crisis will end

By Dominic Adams, MLIVE 03/15/16 12:23 PM

Virginia Tech researcher Marc Edwards said lead levels in Flint's drinking water are dropping, but he did not say when the quality would meet federal drinking water standards. The amount of lead in Flint's water has decreased in Flint, Edwards said while testifying before the U.S. House Committee on Government Oversight and Reform on Tuesday, March 15, in Washington, D.C.

Steve Harvey's TV show focuses on Flint water crisis

By Charles Ramirez, Detroit News 03/14/16 8:34 PM

The Flint water crisis, which has gained international attention, was the focus of the "Steve Harvey Show" on Monday. Kicking off the national show, Harvey said Flint "has become a tragic snapshot of an American city in crisis." "Contaminated water, sick children, careless government," he said, listing the problems associated with the discovery of lead contamination in the water since April 2014, when the city began drawing its drinking water from the Flint River."

Fox's Charlie LeDuff Talks Flint Water Crisis on Steve Harvey Show

By Kevin Eck, TV Spy 03/14/16 5:05 PM

Fox Television Stations' investigative reporter Charlie LeDuff was on the Steve Harvey show talking about the Flint water crisis. LeDuff, who called the crisis "class warfare," explained why it happened and laid down some hard truths about possible solutions. Harvey showed a clip of Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder telling LeDuff he'd let his grandkids bathe in the polluted Flint water, which Harvey called "a damn lie."

Flint's legacy may include dramatic expansion of public records law

By Mike Wilkinson, MLIVE 03/15/16 2:08 PM

In October 2014, aides to Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder had a frank email exchange about the deteriorating water situation in Flint. As residents complained of discolored and foul-smelling water that General Motors said was corroding auto parts at its Flint Engine facility, the aides wrote of an "urgent matter to fix." One suggestion: reverse course and return Flint to the Detroit water system.

Former Chicago EPA official defends actions on Flint water crisis

By Chicago Tribune 03/15/16 2:11 PM

Former city and federal officials pointed fingers at one another for failing to protect the 100,000 citizens of Flint, Michigan, from lead-laced water at a congressional hearing Tuesday as Republicans targeted for blame an Environmental Protection Agency executive who resigned as the crisis worsened. Amid withering criticism, Susan Hedman sought to defend the EPA's actions to deal with the contamination in the predominantly African-American city.

Commentary: Flint shows need for innovative city-state partnerships

By Malcolm Duncan & Aja Brown, my Statesman 03/15/16 12:00 AM

The reality is that Flint – and hundreds of other cities like Flint – don't just face a health problem or a fiscal problem; they face long term economic challenges that don't lend themselves to simple solutions.

After Flint water crisis, watchdog urges Texas to warn residents about arsenic

By Lonnie Shekhtman, Christian Science Monitor 03/15/16

After analyzing more than a decade worth of data, an environmental watchdog group reported Monday that it found levels of arsenic in drinking water in 65 rural Texas communities exceeding the actionable threshold set by the federal government. But there's little agreement over what level of arsenic in water presents a health risk. State health officials advised communities that the water is safe to drink, says the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit Environmental Integrity Project in a report. The report authors liken the situation to the ongoing water crisis in Flint, Mich.

Donations and Aid

MTU students help children in Flint and Detroit

By Aleah Hordges, Upper Michigans Source 03/14/16

Michigan Tech students are helping others down state as they're giving back to children in Flint and Detroit Michigan. Students have voluntarily put on a book and toy drive in efforts of the Flint water crisis, also to help strengthen Detroit's Public School system. Some donations came from local businesses and schools in Houghton county, like goodwill and Houghton Elementary.

Roseville students raise money for Flint with 'penny war'

By Kevin Bunch C & G Newspapers 03/14/16

Students at Roseville High School raised \$1,455 to help out the residents of Flint the week of Feb. 29 through a penny war. According to Sue Dzieciolowski, a vocational child care teacher, the money will go toward the Flint Child Health and Development Fund via the city's public relations department. She said the idea for the penny war to help Flint spun out of a discussion and project her students had in class about the impact of lead poisoning on children, based on Flint's struggle with poisoned water.

HUD Secretary visits Flint, and more federal money could be on the way

By Steve Carmody, Michigan Radio 03/14/16 8:45 PM

The city of Flint could get some additional federal money to help it recover from its water crisis. U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro met with Mayor Karen Weaver and Congressman Dan Kildee in Flint today. Castro says they talked about giving Flint

additional Community Development block grant funds.

Art Van Furniture donates \$100,000 to Flint

By WOOD NBC 8 03/15/16 6:28 PM

Today as part of The Flint Water Crisis: For Our Families Telethon individuals, organizations and businesses are donating money to the Flint Child Health & Development Fund. One business that has been a part of the relief effort for the past months. Today, the family owned business, Art Van Furniture has donated \$100,000 to the fund.

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